

Austin, Texas

May 6, 1981

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE, SIXTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE,  
REGULAR SESSION, STATE OF TEXAS:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14 of the Constitution of the State of Texas, I herewith return to you Senate Bill 297, vetoed for the following reasons:

Senate Bill 297 purports to change the designation of airport security personnel to airport police personnel. The fiscal note attached to the bill indicates there is "no fiscal implication or additional cost to the State or units of local government attributable to the bill."

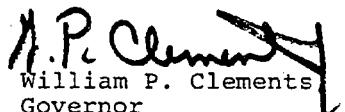
Subsequent to the passage of Senate Bill 297, I received a letter from the mayor of Corpus Christi that states, "The extra cost to Corpus Christi alone is over \$300,000." It has been conveyed to me that similar and greater costs would occur in El Paso, Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, and Houston.

In addition, my staff received telephone calls from the Chiefs of Police of Austin, El Paso, Dallas and Corpus Christi expressing their opposition to Senate Bill 297. They point out that currently airport security personnel are peace officers and can carry guns. However, their level of training as peace officers in no way compares to the training required by full service police officers in the cities listed above. In fact the airport security personnel are confined to a specific geographical area, and the nature of their work in no way compares to a full service police officer. The Chiefs of Police do not want these security personnel under their supervision and direction because of the disparity in their training.

An added cost to the cities in a long-range sense is the result of these personnel being subject to police unions and collective bargaining as provided in Article 5154c-1 of the statutes and being under State Civil Service by Article 1269m.

Because of the added costs to certain cities and because of the objections by cities affected by the bill, I therefore, exercise my constitutional right to disapprove of this legislation and accordingly, I am returning Senate Bill 297 to the Senate unsigned.

Respectfully,

  
William P. Clements, Jr.  
Governor

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*Read and filed with Secretary of  
the Senate.* -2-